

Issue 8 will NOT raise taxes

Fairfield voters to consider tax re-allocation

Fairfield voters are being asked to update the voter-approved distribution of the City's Income Tax in a ballot issue at the November election. Issue 8 will not raise or lower taxes; it only affects where the funds can be utilized. If approved, the new distribution would be effective January 1, 2004.



WILL THE REALLOCATION CHANGE THE AMOUNT OF INCOME TAXES I PAY?

No. The income tax reallocation will not change the amount of income tax currently paid in Fairfield. The current tax rate is 1.5 percent and will stay the same. The only thing that changes is how the City spends the income tax revenues. Currently, 1.0 percent goes into the General Fund, 0.3 percent goes into the Street Improvement Fund and 0.2 percent goes into the Capital Improvement Fund. Under the proposed reallocation 1.1 percent would go into the General Fund, 0.2 percent would go into the Street Improvement Fund and 0.2 percent would continue to go into the Capital Improvement Fund.

HAVE THE INCOME TAX REVENUES EVER BEEN REALLOCATED BEFORE?

Yes. Reallocation of the income tax by the voters is nothing new. In the early 1970's, the voters of Fairfield initially earmarked income tax revenues for the construction and improvement of the City's sanitary sewers, streets and general operations. Then in 1977 voters reduced the amount allocated to the sewer fund. In 1990, the income tax was again reallocated by the voters to provide additional funds for street construction/improvements and general operations. Now that the City has addressed most of its major street improvements it is in a position to invest in other capital needs and quality of life projects.

Issue 8 shifts 0.1 % from the Street Improvement Fund to the General Fund

Street Improvement Fund
Now: 0.3 % Proposed: 0.2 %

General Fund
Now: 1.0 % Proposed: 1.1 %

Capital Improvements Fund
Now: 0.2 % Proposed: 0.2 % (No Change)

HOW MUCH MORE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL FUND IF REALLOCATION IS APPROVED?

Using current estimates for income tax revenues it is estimated that approximately \$1.2 million additionally will go into the General Fund with the tax reallocation.

IF APPROVED, HOW WILL THE ADDITIONAL REVENUES GOING INTO THE GENERAL FUND BE SPENT?

Over the past 5 years, City Council has transferred monies from the General Fund for specific projects. Examples of these have been the Flood Protection Fund and the Downtown Development Fund. Both funds were set up to address the changing needs of the City. The Flood Protection Fund was funded for the construction of two retention basins and other drainage improvements, and the Downtown Development Fund was funded to construct improvements, such as the new Library and the Village Green Park, in the new downtown area of Fairfield.

By earmarking income tax revenues

into the General Fund, the Council would have greater flexibility to meet the changing needs of its residents and businesses. Initially, the additional funds going into the General Fund will be used to fund construction and/or renovation of municipal facilities, such as the Community Center and the Justice Center.

SINCE THE REALLOCATION DIVERTS MONEY FROM THE STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND, WILL THIS HURT THE CITY'S ABILITY TO FINANCE STREET IMPROVEMENTS OR MAINTAIN CURRENT STREET OPERATIONS?

No. There will be adequate funds available to complete the projects envisioned, all of which total almost \$15 million in City funding over the next five years. Remember, the Street Improvement Fund will continue to receive approximately \$2.5 million a year in Income Tax Revenues beginning in 2004 even with the reallocation. The Street Improvement Fund will have a balance of approximately \$3.1 million at the end of 2006, assuming

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Annual leaf collection begins Nov. 4

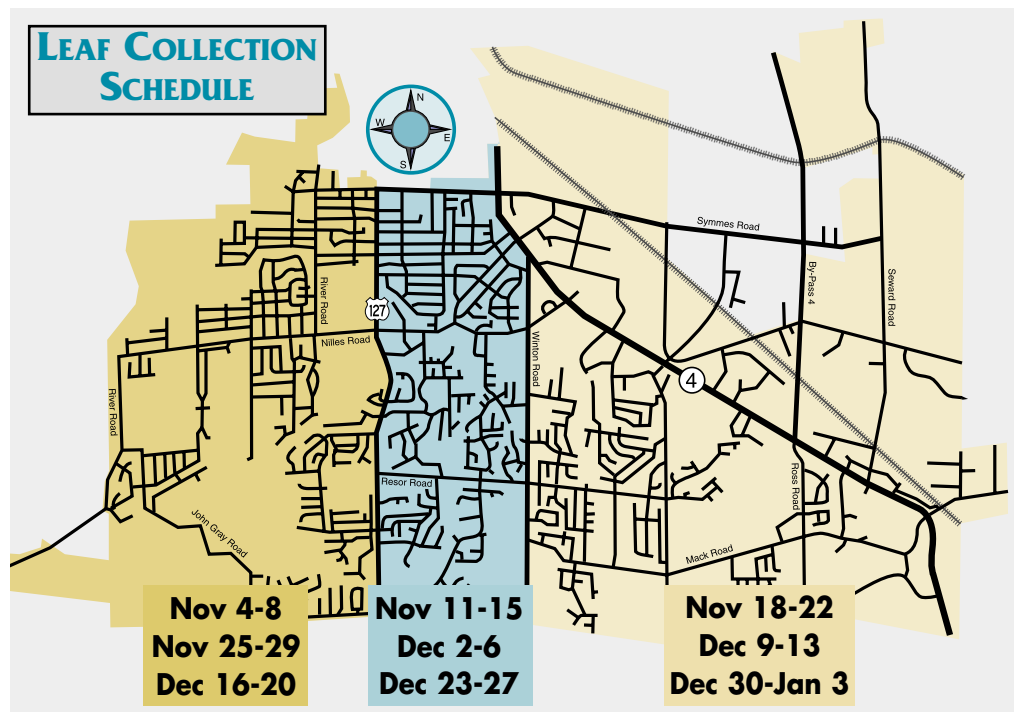
Fairfield's annual leaf collection will begin November 4 on streets west of Pleasant Avenue. This program provides free leaf collection services and is especially helpful to the homeowner who has a large amount of leaves of which to dispose.



The collection effort moves to the central part of the City beginning the week of November 11, then to the east side of Winton Road beginning the week of November 18. Crews will then

return to the west side of Pleasant to repeat the cycle, making three passes through the entire City before the collection effort ends on January 3.

Residents who wish to use the program should place leaves (*and leaves only, please*) in rows or piles as near to the curb as possible, but not on the street. Be careful not to block gutters or storm drainage basins.



Due to the large volume of leaves, crews may run a bit behind schedule, however, be sure to have leaves curbside by the posted dates. For those needing specific information about the collection schedule, **INFO-FAIRFIELD** will offer a rundown of the next day's collection schedule after 3 p.m. daily. Simply call **INFO-FAIRFIELD** at 867-5301, and at the prompt, enter 543 from any touch-tone telephone.

Residents who miss the annual collection program will need to bag

leaves and place a pre-paid yard waste sticker on them in accordance with yard waste regulations.

Residents who have a small amount of leaves, or who otherwise choose not to participate in the program, may find it more convenient to bag their leaves and apply a pre-paid yard waste sticker to them for pick-up on the regularly scheduled day of trash collection.

For more information, watch Cable Channel 18, or call **INFO-FAIRFIELD**.

You're Invited!

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings

Held at the Fairfield City Building,
Pleasant Ave. & Wessel Dr.:

City Council

2nd & 4th Mondays at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals

1st Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Civil Service Commission

2nd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Held at the Parks and Recreation
Office at 701 Wessel Dr.:

Parks & Recreation Board

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Community Forest Commission

1st Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Reallocation... continued from front page

income tax revenues grow at a conservative one percent a year. If the re-allocation is not approved, the Street Improvement Fund would have approximately \$6.8 million at the end of 2006.

The Street Improvement Fund can only be used for major improvements and not for the operating costs associated with roads and streets. Therefore, operations such as snow removal, vehicle maintenance and pothole repairs that are subsidized from the General Fund may actually be enhanced by directing additional revenues to the General Fund. (In 2002, the General Fund contributed \$400,000 to fund these street operations.)

WOULD THE ADDITIONAL INCOME TAX REVENUES FROM THE REALLOCATION BE USED TO PAY OPERATING COSTS OF THE GENERAL FUND?

Initially, no. Eventually, yes. Initially, these revenues will be used to construct new facilities or renovate existing ones. After all contracts are paid and debt obligations satisfied, then funds may be used to pay operating costs. The construction of the Fairfield Community Center and the construction or the renovation of the Fairfield Justice Center will require additional monies to maintain these facilities. As the City matures it is likely that some of these revenues will be needed for operation and maintenance.

Tribute to honor “First Lady of Fairfield”

Esther Benzing loved Fairfield. With her passing earlier this year, our community lost a dear friend, one who not only documented our history as a well known local historian, but who helped make our history through her guidance and life-long involvement over her 99 years. So involved was she in Fairfield’s development that she earned the honorary title of “First Lady of Fairfield.”



*Esther Benzing
The First Lady of Fairfield*

There is no cost to attend the tribute, which includes cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. Donations, however, are encouraged to the Fairfield Community Foundation to establish an Esther Benzing Memorial Fund.

Fairfield would not have developed into the community enjoyed today without Esther’s involvement. In fact, she was among the first to walk door-to-door gathering signatures to incorporate Fairfield as a city.

In the 1970s, she allowed a large parcel of her Mack Road farm to be used for the establishment of Mercy Hospital. Not only did the hospital bring high quality medical care into the City, but it also created 650 jobs.

A few years later, Esther allowed an even larger parcel of her farmland to be developed into the headquarters of the Cincinnati Financial Corporation, bringing an additional 3,000 jobs into the community she loved.

Esther will forever be remembered for her vigor and enthusiasm. With the handshake of a body builder, she would proudly introduce herself as a farmer. Her energy level was endless, often seen cutting the lawn at her white Mack Road homestead well into her later years. She seldom missed a Fairfield City or Chamber of Commerce function, even into her 90s.

To say Esther Benzing will be missed is a gross understatement... she already is.

On Thursday evening, November 14, friends will gather at 6 p.m. at Receptions on Boymel Drive to honor Esther’s memory and begin a campaign to establish a permanent memorial to her.

She always emphasized the importance of attracting business and industry into the growing community over the years, even sacrificing hundreds of acres of her beloved Mack Road farm for the long-term benefit of the City.

Abandoned pets creating growing problem

It’s a sad sight: a starving dog or cat foraging for scraps of food around a dumpster or garbage can on a cold late afternoon. Yet, just such an image is happening all too often — and in growing numbers — in Fairfield parks and apartment complexes, favorite places for irresponsible pet owners to abandon an animal once cherished in happier times.



from your local animal shelter or check out ads in the newspaper for “free to a good home” opportunities.

According to the Butler County Humane Society (www.butlerhumane.com), as many as 25 percent of dogs entering shelters each year are purebreds, so you might be surprised at the type of pet you can find in a shelter.

Once getting a dog or cat, immediately consider neutering your pet, unless you want puppies or kittens. Consider these statistics if you think neutering isn’t important:

■ One female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years.

■ One female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in 6 years.

■ More than 12 million dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters each year. Millions

more are abandoned in rural and urban areas.

■ Approximately 61% of all dogs entering shelters are euthanized.

■ Approximately 75% of all cats entering shelters are euthanized.

Utility accounts now online

In an effort to provide additional usability and functionality to the City of Fairfield’s Web presence, the Utility Billing and Collections Division now offers residents the convenience of viewing their utility account information online.

Visit our View Your Utility Account page at www.fairfield-city.org/finance/utilityaccount.cfm and simply enter your account number. As a result, you’ll be able to view your account details such as current balance, due date and last payment information.

With the holidays fast approaching, more pets will join the abandoned after hasty decisions to bring joy to a child give way to the reality of ongoing pet-related responsibilities.

Before getting a pet, think through the newness and initial joy to the long-term responsibilities of day-to-day care, year-after-year. Consider adopting a pet

New Lane Library celebrates first birthday

Has it really been a year since the opening of Fairfield's new Lane Public Library in Village Green? The first year of operation has been a busy one! In fact, the larger, more visible facility has experienced significant growth in popularity over the former location, now occupied by Fairfield's parks and Recreation office:



■ In the first year of operation, the new Fairfield Lane Library has attracted more than 2,000 adults and more than 7,000 children and teens to programs at the library.

■ Circulation has increased to 905,711 items compared to 495,675 items at the former location... an 83 percent increase.

■ New library users registering for cards at the new facility increased by 132 percent, growing by 7,072 users.

■ Reference telephone calls increased by 86 percent.

■ With the increased space, the library's collection has grown by 71 percent over the former location, now cataloging more than 150,000 items.

Pacific Industries celebrate expansions

Today's new Toyota vehicles are receiving parts supplied by three Fairfield businesses: Pacific Manufacturing Ohio (PMO), Pacific Industries Air Controls (PIA)



and Takumi Stamping (TSI), all located adjacent to each other on Seward Road.

Pacific Manufacturing and Takumi Stamping hosted an open house this summer to commemorate both an expansion at Pacific Manufacturing Ohio and a new facility for Takumi Stamping. The luncheon program highlighted Pacific Manufacturing Ohio's recent 180,000 square foot expansion of new production space at a cost of \$20 million. The project will create 100 new jobs. Business plans include increasing the

size of the facility even further.

Takumi Stamping Inc., established in 2001, has also completed construction of its first U.S. facility. This \$9 million,

70,000 square foot facility will employ 40 workers with room for future expansions.

Both PMO and TSI produce stamped metal parts while PIA produces tire valves. Both PMO and PIA are wholly owned by Pacific Industries USA (PIU), which in turn is owned by Pacific Industrial Co., Ltd. (PIC) of Ogaki, Japan. Takumi Stamping is a joint venture between PIC and Takagi Manufacturing Co. Ltd. of Nagoya, Japan.

"Family" comes home to Fairfield

They stand in a common pose, a mother holding a young child with the dad by her side. It's the image of the common family that makes Fairfield's newest bronze casting so uncommon.

Erected in the late summer at the Pleasant Avenue entrance to Village Green, the sculpture, simply entitled "Family," gives pause to what Fairfield is all about. The work, one of several in a series, was produced by prominent



artist Glenna Goodacre. Among her many achievements was the creation of the Sacagawea Dollar Coin minted to commemorate the new millennium.

Fairfield plans locating several more sculptures throughout the City and welcomes corporate and philanthropic contributions to offset the cost of the art.

For information, call 867-5348.

At your service...

Never hesitate to contact any of the following departments with questions or concerns. They're here to help...

Police or Fire Emergency

911

Urgent, but not an emergency? Call 639-7820.

Non-Emergency

Police/Fire Dispatcher.. 513/639-7820

Police Department 513/867-6030

Fire Department 513/867-5379

Building Inspection

& Zoning 513/867-5318

City Council Office 513/867-5383

City Manager's Office . 513/867-5350

Finance Department 513/867-5315

Income Tax Office 513/867-5327

Human Resources..... 513/867-5352

InfoFairfield Citizen

Information System 513/867-5301

Mayor's Office 513/867-5374

Municipal Court 513/867-6002

Parks & Recreation Dept.

Administrative Offices ... 513/867-5348

Aquatic Center 513/939-2782

18-hole Golf Course 513/867-5385

9-hole Golf Course 513/939-3741

Party Rooms..... 513/829-6272

Planning & Economic

Development..... 513/867-5345

Public Works

Department..... 513/867-4200

Public Utilities

Customer Billing..... 513/867-5370

Director 513/867-5375

Wastewater Division 513/867-5369

Water Division 513/867-5382

All Other Calls 513/867-5300

Telecomm. Device

for the Deaf (TDD) 513/867-5392



HIGHLIGHTS OF

Autumn/Winter Events

PLANNED BY YOUR FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
ANY OF THESE
PROGRAMS, CALL THE
PARKS AND
RECREATION
DEPARTMENT AT
867-5348

BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, December 6 • 10 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

To ensure that adequate blood supplies are readily on hand for any emergency, the Community Blood Center, City of Fairfield and the Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring a community blood drive at the Parks office, 701 Wessel Drive. Cookies and juice will be provided. Schedule a time for your donation on the Blood Drive website at www.fairfield-city.org/blood-drive.cfm or call the Parks office at 867-5348.



YOGA

Session I: Week of January 27 - March 10

(No classes on Presidents' Day, February 17)

Session II: Week of March 17 - May 1

(No classes during Spring Break, April 21-25)

Mondays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. • Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m.
Thursdays: 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Yoga is a complete fitness system involving core strength, movement and physical, personal, and spir-

itual awareness. Held in the Multipurpose Room at the Parks and Recreation office at 701 Wessel Drive (the former Lane Library), this class is for those who wish to reduce stress and increase flexibility. Basic yoga postures and breathing/relaxation techniques will be introduced in the class. (Note: some postures may be strenuous for first time exercisers.)

Fee: \$45 per person (Non-Resident \$50)

SPINNING®



Session I: Week of January 27 - March 10

(No classes on Presidents' Day, February 17)

Session II: Week of March 17 - May 1

(No classes during Spring Break, April 21-25)

SPINNING® is a stationary bicycle program primarily aimed at achieving maximum energy output. By making adjustments and pedaling in different positions during the ride, the rider can simulate the feel of being outdoors. Held at the Multi-Purpose Room of the Parks and Recreation office, 701 Wessel Drive (the former Lane Library), each class is comprised of a warm up period, a moderate-to-high intensity cardiovascular workout and a cool-down.

Be sure to bring a towel and a water bottle or two. With a limited number of bikes, registration is necessary for each 6-week session.

Mondays & Wednesdays from 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6 to 7 a.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Fee: \$70 per person (Non-Resident \$75)

BIRDHOUSE WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 1 • 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the Fairfield Community Forest Commission, this event will be held in the Multipurpose Room at the Parks and Recreation office, 701 Wessel Drive (the former Lane Library). Participants will assemble a birdhouse from a kit. When finished, the birdhouse is yours to keep. As part of the workshop, Naturalist Will Harbaum will discuss local birds. Pre-registration is necessary by calling the Parks and Recreation Department at 867-5348. Space is limited, so registration is needed by February 14.

Fee: \$5 per person (Fairfield residents only)

SEASONAL HAPPENINGS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 7 • 9:30 OR 11 a.m.

What could be more fun than having breakfast with jolly ol' St. Nick himself? Santa will be having breakfast with children up to 8 years old at the Golf and Community Center on John Gray Road. The party will feature entertainment, breakfast treats and a picture with Santa during the child's visit with him. Due to the tremendous popularity of this event, **pre-registration is mandatory**. Cost is only \$5 per person (Fairfield residents only).

SLEDDING & SKIING

INFO-FAIRFIELD • 867-5301 • EXT. 412

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (when conditions permit)

While everybody else is inside looking out at the snow, Harbin Park will be coming to life with sled riding and cross country skiing. Of course, we'll need the right snow amounts, but when we do, bring the whole family and your friends to enjoy the season. (Please note that the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to close the sledding hill because of inadequate snow cover, low temperatures, dangerous wind chill factors, lack of participants or for any safety related reason.) Call INFO-FAIRFIELD at 867-5301, ext 412, for the latest sledding information.

FAIRFIELD HOLLY-DAYS

Sunday, December 8 • 4 - 6 p.m.

INFO-FAIRFIELD • 867-5301 • EXT. 422

Bring the whole family to the traditional start of the holiday season at the beautiful Village Green Park. Visits with Santa begin at 4 p.m. Entertainment already being scheduled includes carolers, balloon sculptures, a magic show, kids crafts and refreshments. Visit with Jas, the official Fairfield Firedog, at the fire department's safety display, where children can learn some lifesaving lessons, or take

the family on a wagon ride around Village Green.



At dusk, the holiday season officially begins with the lighting of the holiday decorations. Dress for the season, since the activities all happen outdoors. This family-oriented event is sponsored jointly by the City of Fairfield, the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce and the Parks and Recreation Department.

KIDDIES HOLIDAY CAMP

Mondays: Dec. 2, 9 & 16

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Preschoolers (ages 3-5) will have loads of holiday fun with a variety of arts and crafts, seasonal songs and festive games. The three-week series is offered at two times at the new parks office on Wessel Drive. Cost of the series is \$20 (\$25 for non-residents of Fairfield).

MORE HOLIDAY PROGRAMS AT THE
MORGAN MANSION ON THE NEXT PAGE.

KIDS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, December 13

Enjoy an evening of shopping and relaxed holiday preparation during this event. While you tend to holiday matters, your 3 to 10-year-olds will be having a great time in the multipurpose room of the new parks office on Wessel Drive. Kids will enjoy dinner, arts & crafts, games, movies and popcorn. Children may be dropped off as early as 5:30 p.m. and picked up as late as 9 p.m. Reservations are necessary by 5 p.m. on the day of the event. Cost is \$10 per child (\$16 for two children in the same family).

SPECIAL GOLF RATES

INFO-FAIRFIELD • 867-5301 • EXT. 379

Two courses offer golfers challenging play on either the 18 hole Championship South Trace course or the Executive 9-hole North Trace course. Both provide excellent playing conditions, cart rental, pro shop and a snack bar.

GREENS FEES

WEEKDAYS

9 holes.....	\$11.00	\$10.00
18 holes.....	\$19.00	N/A

SENIOR/JUNIOR

9 holes.....	\$9.00	\$8.00
18 holes.....	\$14.00	N/A

Golf Pro: Dave Hartman

FAIRFIELD GOLF COURSE

INFO-FAIRFIELD • 867-5301 • EXT. 379

WINTER GOLF PLANNED

On those somewhat brisk, yet nice, winter days, have you ever had an urge to play a round of golf? If so, you'll have a local outlet for the game this winter season. When the temperature rises above 40 degrees, South Trace on John Gray Road may be open for daytime play during January and February. Since winter weather is so unpredictable, call the Pro Shop at 858-7750 to be sure the course is open for play.

PLAN NOW FOR 2003

Now is the time to plan ahead for your 2003 league involvement and golf outings. If you haven't yet made arrangements, call the Pro

Shop at 858-7750. Plan to get an early jump on open or work leagues.

HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

If an avid golfer is on your Christmas list, Santa might like to know that gift certificates



are available at the Pro Shop at either North or South Trace. Gift certificates are a great way to give the gift of fun. Stop by the Pro Shop and check off a few names from your gift list.

HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING

December 26 - January 5

Here's a way to make your natural holiday tree useful after the holidays. Recycle your tree in the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department's Holiday Tree Recycling Program. Through this program, trees are shredded to produce mulch used in the City's parks and recreation system. Residents who desire, may also keep the mulch for use around their home.



Trees may be dropped off at Waterworks Park on Groh Lane from December 26 through January 3. A Christmas Tree disposal corral will be set up in the park's south parking area (the parking lot closest to River Road). Before leaving a

tree, please be sure to remove all ornaments and tinsel. The recycling program offers residents an environmentally responsible alternative for tree disposal.

If you are not able to participate in the recycling program, attach one yardwaste disposal sticker to the tree for curbside pick-up on your regular day of trash collection.

CHIPPING PROGRAM

INFO-FAIRFIELD • 867-5301 • EXT. 375

The City of Fairfield Parks Department will be accepting limbs and brush on the second Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The dates for the remaining months of the year are November 9 and December 14. Take your materials to Groh Lane, just past Waterworks Park. If you have any questions about the Chipping program, call 867-5348.

MARSH FISHING LAKE

6440 RIVER ROAD

Fairfield's fishing lake will remain open on week-ends, as weather permits, during October and November. The lake will remain open from dawn to dusk on weekends through November, with the last day of operation on November 24. (On days of questionable weather, call the lake at 858-1685, to see if it is open.) Bait and some fishing equipment are available near the lake's entrance on East River Road.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER:

OPEN WEEKENDS FROM DAWN TO DUSK

IF WEATHER IS QUESTIONABLE,
CALL THE MARSH FISHING LAKE
BAITHOUSE AT 858-1685

DAILY RATES

	Fairfield Resident	Non-Resident
General Admission (16+).....	\$7.00	\$10.00
Seniors* (60+).....	\$6.00	\$9.00
Youth† (7-15).....	\$5.00	\$5.00
Child† (6 & under).....	\$2.00	\$2.00
Twilight Fee.....	\$3.00	\$5.00
Daily Family Pass.....	\$14.00	residents only

* Must have a Golden Buckeye Card

† Must be accompanied by a paying adult

There is a two-pole limit for adults and a one-pole limit for those under the age of 16.

Note: Rules governing the use of the Marsh Fishing Lake are posted at the Bait Shop.

REGISTRATION

INFO-FAIRFIELD • 867-5301 • EXT. 389

Registration for fall programs is now underway at the new Parks and Recreation Office, 701 Wessel Drive, next to the Municipal Building. Programs often fill quickly, so plan to register early.

- Fees must be paid at the time of registration.
- All registration takes place through the Fairfield Parks & Recreation office and can be made by telephone (with charges made to your MasterCard/Visa), by mail (with a check or charge authorization), or by Fax (with a charge authorization)
- Any program can be cancelled if there appears to be little interest in registration.

REFUND POLICY

Tournament and league fees are not transferable or refundable. Program registration fees are non-refundable unless:

- The program is cancelled or closed by the Parks & Recreation Department.
- The participant moves out of Fairfield before the start of the program.
- Participant becomes ill with notification prior to the start of the program (a doctor's statement will be required).

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about programs offered by the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department, feel free to call us at 867-5348. Our office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PROGRAMS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

INFO-FAIRFIELD • 867-5301 • EXT. 407

A variety of classes are offered by the Parks and Recreation Department for pre-school aged children. Classes are held at the new Parks office on Wessel Drive (the former Lane Library Building). Cost for each program is \$23 (\$29 for non-Fairfield residents). Registration is required and is currently being taken. Most classes still have room, so call for information.

**PROGRAMS NOW
HELD AT THE
NEW PARKS
OFFICE ON
WESSEL DRIVE**

Two winter sessions are offered for the following classes. Session I begins the week of January 27 and continues through the week of March 10. Session II begins the week of March 17 and continues through the week of May 1. (Please note that there will be no classes during Spring Break, April 21-25).

TODDLER TIME

Mom or dad (or grandma or grandpa) can enjoy a special time with their two-year-old as the child learns important socialization skills with others the same age.

2 year olds:

Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

INTRO TO ABCs

Learning the ABCs has never been so much fun! Utilizing lessons and crafts, pre-schoolers who are 4 and 5 years old will begin to recognize and write the alphabet in this new and exciting class.



4 & 5 year olds:

Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

TOTS COOKING, EATING & STORY TIME

After an exciting story, your 3-to-5 year-old will make the story come to life with baking. Spreading, cutting and measuring are some of the concepts the children will use to make their creations.

3, 4 & 5 year olds:

Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

CREATIVE KIDS

Pre-schoolers will enjoy arts and crafts, music and physical education activities in our Creative Kids class. Children will enjoy lots of cutting, pasting and painting as they explore their creativity.

3, 4 & 5 year olds:

Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

3, 4 & 5 year olds:

Mondays from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

WINTER FUN

One Day Only: Friday, January 24

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Preschoolers will delight in this one day class filled with seasonal activities. Participants will read books, get involved in activities and create crafts, all with an emphasis on a winter theme. Activities, including lunch, will be held in the Preschool Room at the Parks & Recreation office at 701 Wessel Drive (The former Lane Library). Cost is \$10 per child (\$12 per child for non-residents).

THANKING OUR VETERANS

This fall, two memorial events are being planned to honor area veterans. Both events will be held at Veteran's Memorial Park, located next to the Parks and Recreation office on Wessel Drive (the former Lane Library).

Veterans' Day will be honored in ceremonies on Monday, November 11, at 11 a.m. A memorial ceremony will also be held on Pearl Harbor Day, Saturday, December 7, at 1 p.m.

For information regarding either event, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 867-5348.



2003 SWIM PASSES AVAILABLE NOW

Passes are now available for the 2003 swimming season. Tickets are discounted through December 31, 2002. Season passes can be obtained from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Office on Wessel Drive.

Before December 31

After December 31

Family.....	\$175 (Non-Resident \$275)	\$200 (Non-Resident \$300)
Youth/Teen.....	\$70 (Non-Resident \$110)	\$80 (Non-Resident \$125)
Adult/Individual.....	\$90 (Non-Resident \$135)	\$100 (Non-Resident \$150)

YOUTH SPORTS CONTACTS

Select Soccer

Kendra Moss 829-0393

Fairfield Optimist SAY Soccer

Registration Hotline 684-4183

TOP Soccer (for children with special needs)

Bob Schindler 588-4980

Fairfield Youth Athletic Assn.

Tom Milne (Football) 868-9047

Steve Spencer (Cheerleading) . . 829-8966

FYBA (Fairfield Youth Baseball Assn.)

Hotline 829-7292

Rod & Lisa Lashley 870-9435

Website www.fyba.com

Butler Co. Youth Hockey Association

Ronald Ross 829-8892

Email ross@one.net

Jim Montague 829-6624

Email lakeview@one.net

Lindenwald/Hamilton Basketball

Robert Hensley 829-4767

Fairfield YMCA (Basketball

& Winter Swim Team) 829-3091



Activities at the Mansion

Activities taking place at the Elisha Morgan Mansion in Gilbert Farms Park

WINE TASTING

Friday, November 8 • 7 - 9 p.m.
Friday, March 7 • 7 - 9 p.m.



The history of the Elisha Morgan Mansion reveals that it was once a vineyard in the 19th century. To celebrate its heritage, participants will sample a variety of wines. Hors D'Oeuvres will also be available. Cost is \$15 per person and is limited to those who are at least 21 years of

age. Reservations are required by calling 867-5348. Previous wine tasting events have proven quite popular, so make your reservations early.

MOM & ME FOR TEA

Sunday, April 13 • 2 p.m.

This isn't a pretend tea party, but the real thing. Come dressed up in your Sunday best for tea (or coffee or punch), sandwiches and sweets.

Children participate in their very own fashion show, so bring a written description of your daughter's outfit for the commentator. The Tea Party is held at the historic Elisha Morgan Mansion, located in Gilbert Farms Park. Cost for the event is \$7 per person.



SENIOR CITIZENS INC.

Fair Plaza on Patterson Blvd.

Leisure activities and nutritious lunches for Senior Citizens at least 55 years of age are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the satellite center on Patterson Boulevard in the Fair Plaza Shopping Center.

Operated by Senior Citizens Inc. of Hamilton, programs are offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Each menu varies daily, but typically includes meat, bread, vegetables and/or fruit, dessert and milk. The monthly menu is announced in advance for planning purposes. Thanks to grant funding, meals are provided for a suggested donation of \$2.50 for those 60 and older, and \$4.50 for those 55-59. Since meals are catered, reservations are helpful, but not required. To make a reservation, call 867-1998 (extension 350).

Before and after lunch, several activities are provided, including speakers, health screenings, art classes, crafts, entertainment and games.



CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 7 & 8 • 1 - 4 p.m.

Step back in time and experience the holidays the way they used to be at the turn of the last century. The Mansion will be adorned in old fashion Christmas decorations. Admission is free.



CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION PREVIEW PARTY

Friday, December 6 • 7 - 9 p.m.

You are invited to a special preview party for the Christmas at the Mansion weekend. This exclusive event will give you the chance to be among the first to see the Mansion in its holiday splendor. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music will be part of this festive evening. Cost is \$20 per couple. Reservations are required by December 2 by calling the Parks and Recreation Department at 867-5348.

SENIORS TRAVEL SERIES

The Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department has joined with the Fairfield YMCA to offer the following travel packages. A special preview meeting will be held November 15 at 1 and 2:15 p.m. at the Fairfield Parks office on Wessel Drive for those who have expressed an interest in any of the trips. For more information about the trips, call Susan Key at the Fairfield YMCA at 829-3091, the Parks and Recreation Department at 867-5348, or Jim Williams at 772-4411. A \$50 deposit will reserve a spot on the trip of your choice.

HEART OF THE SOUTH/CARIBBEAN CRUISE

(Departs Feb. 27)

This 15-day tour includes a tour of Memphis, Nashville, Atlanta and New Orleans, as well as a 7-day Caribbean cruise to Cozumel, Grand Cayman and Montego Bay. (\$1,641 per person)

ALASKA CRUISE

(Departs June 1, 2003)

This 15-day getaway includes stops in Seattle, Vancouver, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. A 7-day cruise takes participants along Alaska's inside passage, including stops in Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway and Glacier Bay National Park. Included are air fare, bus transportation, all meals aboard ship, hotel accommodations and special events. (\$2,399 per person)

NATIONAL PARKS OF THE GOLDEN WEST

(Departs Aug. 2, 2003)



This 15-day adventure will tour the West, including Salt Lake City, Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas and Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, Bryce and Arches National Parks. (\$1,383 per person)

HAWAII QUEENS TOUR

(Departs Nov. 17, 2003)

This spectacular 15-day dream vacation will tour the four islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii. Included are air fare, bus transportation, hotel accommodations, sightseeing and special events. (\$1,748 per person)

Try the Mansion...

The Elisha Morgan Mansion is available to residents for weddings, receptions, meetings, luncheons and other social events. To reserve this fully restored 1817 farm mansion, call Pat Martin at Cincinnati Concessions at 829-6272. When calling, please have information regarding the size of the group, type of event, date and time preferred. If possible, have alternate dates in case the mansion is not available for your first choice. In addition to private events, the mansion is an excellent learning opportunity for school or scout groups.

Imagine counting all the trees in Fairfield!

Homeowners in the southwest quadrant of the City over the past few months may have found a flyer hanging on their mailbox from a group who loves Fairfield's urban forest. Members and volunteers of the Fairfield Forest Commission are so interested in the trees along the streets that they have counted and assessed the health of every one of them.

The flyer left on mailboxes is a friendly report on the condition of the property owners' street trees — the trees generally located between the sidewalk and the street.

Considering that Fairfield has more than 170 lane-miles of roadway, that's a lot of trees to assess. The Forest Commission, however, isn't assessing the trees just to be nice, although the reports show the group's genuine concern for the street trees. The review is part of the commission's regular inventory of Fairfield's street trees to determine how the City's urban forest is doing.



Kim Constantinides, left, and Karen Fields assess a tree along Williamsburg Way as part of the Forest Commission's tree inventory process.

The inventory produces a wealth of information, including the types of street trees proliferating in the City, the size and health of the trees, and the number of trees compared to the last inventory 3 years ago.

As part of the undertaking, volunteers are also checking to see how many more trees could be located along the streets. The percentage of street trees to total street tree slots, along with the canopy percentage derived for the aerial survey of the City will be two impor-

tant benchmarks as Fairfield measures its future efforts to reforest the City.

The Forest Commission has been busy this year. Not only have members been involved in the street tree inventory, but they have increased their visibility during the year, handing out seedlings on Arbor Day and providing free seeds and trees during two Concerts in the Park at Village Green.

Any day, the Forest Commission will be identifying the winner in the group's "Find the Biggest Tree in Fairfield" contest.

If you'd like to join with others who are dedicated to Fairfield's urban forest, stop by the Parks and Recreation office during the group's monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation office at 867-5348 or e-mail the organization at forestcommission@fairfield-city.org.

Veterans walkway enters final phase

If you have not yet purchased a memorial brick as part of the walkway in Veterans Memorial Park, you'll have one final opportunity. The walkway's third and final phase will be dedicated on Memorial Day, 2003. Sales of the engraved paverstones which will make up the walkway will end on March 21. The park, located on the east side of the Parks and Recreation office on Wessel Drive (the former location of the Lane Public Library), features a monument honoring each branch of the military and a fountain in remembrance of American POWs and MIAs. Those purchasing the commemorative bricks can list a loved one or may inscribe their name as a permanent honor to those who have served in the military. For more information, call Angie Johns at 867-5383.

PLEASE RESERVE A COMMEMORATIVE BRICK IN MY NAME!

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

The name on the Commemorative Brick may contain up to 3 lines, with each line containing up to 13 letters. All names will be centered, unless otherwise noted. Be sure to print your letters clearly.

Please make your check payable to Fairfield Veterans Memorial Park.
(\$30 for each brick ordered/\$50 for two bricks)

MAIL TO: ANGIE JOHNS • 5350 PLEASANT AVENUE • FAIRFIELD, OHIO 45014

CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO PURCHASE A BRICKS AS A GIFT. CALL 867-5383 FOR DETAILS.

Six new officers join police ranks

Fairfield's efforts to recruit quality officers to its Police Department are paying off. Six new officers have joined Fairfield this year. In the campaign, City representatives visited area colleges to actively promote employment with the City.

Many candidates testing for Fairfield's Police Department cited the recruitment invitation to take the Civil Service test as the key to their interest.

The Fairfield Police Department currently has 55 sworn police officers on the force. Due to retirements, however, five additional vacancies remain open. Representatives plan to continue active recruitment efforts to ensure the Police Department maintains a full roster.

New officers joining the Fairfield Police Department this year are:

TODD ADAMSON: Todd graduated from Fairfield High School in 1994 and served as a Fairfield Police Intern in 1996. Most recently, Todd served as a Union Township Police Officer and has experience with the Goshen Township and Greenhills Police Departments. He holds an Associate Degree in Police Science/Law Enforcement from Sinclair Community College, Dayton. Todd and his wife Krystal have two sons, ages 1 and 8.



KATHY COMPTON: Kathy notes that she has always liked the Fairfield area, and once lived here from 1993-1998. Her association with the Fairfield Police Department is her first law enforcement opportunity. Kathy is married to husband Michael, who has a 12 year old daughter Bryana.



BECKY ERVIN: Becky graduated from Fairfield High School in 1994, then went on to earn her Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Miami University. She went on to attend the Sinclair



Community College Police Academy prior to joining the Fairfield Police Department. Over the past five years, she volunteered her time with the Butler County Rape Crisis Center as a victim advocate.

RYAN FLEENOR: Ryan worked for the Village of Greenhills Police Department prior to joining Fairfield's Police



Department. He holds an Associate Degree in Abnormal Psychology and a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. He has also attended the FBI School for Forensic

Photography. Ryan has a 2 year old daughter named Bailey.

KELLY SMITH: Kelly cited Fairfield reputation for a proactive police department



that recognizes the importance of strong community support. Prior to joining the Fairfield Police Department, she was a private police officer for the Franciscan Medical Center in Dayton. Kelly has

taken several criminal justice course at Sinclair Community College, where she attended the Police Academy.

MIKE WOODALL: Mike cited the size of Fairfield's Police Department as one reason he was



attracted to the job. He is nearing completion of an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Fluent in Spanish, Mike previously worked as a part-time officer with the

Greenhills Police Department and as a dispatcher for the Forest Park Police Department. He and his wife Amy have a six-month old son.

Karen Wittmer named Volunteer Coordinator

Karen Wittmer has been appointed as Fairfield's Volunteer Coordinator. One of her first projects in her new position was to coordinate the annual Make a Difference Day project, a massive undertaking coordinating hundreds of volunteers who focus on clean-up projects for Fairfield's elderly and disabled residents.

While new to the position, Karen is not necessarily new to Fairfield, having worked as a part-time receptionist since the retirement of Dottie Ballengee earlier this year.



Karen Wittmer

Prior to joining the Fairfield City staff, Karen was employed by Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, where she worked as a human resources assistant and training coordinator. She has also worked as an administrative assistant to Oxford's Assistant City Manager. In addition, Karen has also served as a substitute teacher at West Elementary.

A Fairfield resident for the past 10 years, Karen is married to Dan Wittmer. Daughter

Amanda is a student at Fairfield West Elementary.

Employees selected for STAR awards

Fairfield City employees dedicate themselves to excellence in service. In an effort to highlight those who have gone above and beyond their regular duties, the City of Fairfield initiated the quarterly STAR award program. The following are the recipients of STAR recognition through the third quarter of 2002:

Paul Clear and **Jim Howell** are recognized for their above and beyond efforts to reach out into the community and make a contribution not related to their jobs in the Fire Department. Both men have made a significant difference to the Special Olympics program.

Captain Howell took the leadership role by bringing the needs of the Special Olympics program to the Fairfield Fire Department. Making a commitment to assist in the Special Olympics meant that City personnel needed to be educated about the program. In some cases, they also needed to be encouraged to extend themselves outside their normal roles and sense of security in the day-to-day work environment to better work with the children and young adults. Captain Howell's efforts even enabled on-duty personnel to attend the events due to their strong desire to be part of the program.

Paul's demonstrated commitment to the Special Olympics has also led to his STAR award. In addition to helping out when on duty, Paul serves when off duty as well. He helped out at the regional track meet, moving wheel chairs and cheering for the participants. He also volunteered for the Special Olympics regional bowling tournament. Paul was instrumental in making arrangements for and conducting a cook out at Fire Headquarters for the athletes and their parents.

Natasha Erbland, a first year lifeguard at the Fairfield Aquatic Center has been designated as a "Golden Guard." A "Golden Guard" is one who "stands out as superb, someone who goes the extra

mile, one who sets an example of excellence, one who captures the attention of the auditor in such a way that the auditor believes he/she deserves extra mention." The national award is given annually to only a few lifeguards by Ellis and Associates, a nationally respected provider of lifeguard training programs. Winning such a prestigious award underscores Natasha's qualities, also earning her Fairfield's

STAR Award.

Natasha is a student at Village Christian High School.

Randy Hassler, Instrumentation Foreman in the Wastewater Division, is a person on whom you can depend for personal initiative, teamwork efforts, and a dedication to the City. Although assigned to Wastewater, Randy has also taken on a maintenance role at the Aquatic Center. Earlier this year, the water pumping and filtration systems were not functioning properly, so Randy volunteered to help. He set up a program to rebuild all the pumps at the Aquatic Center using more reliable pumps that will provide much better service. He installed the new equipment and made sure it worked properly. The results are both long and short term cost savings for the City.

Randy responds to follow up questions and issues to meet the needs of the Aquatic Center staff. "He has really saved us and helped to keep the pool running", said Bob Schappacher,

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

Yvette Kolb, Web Analyst in Fairfield's Information Technology Division, consistently goes the extra mile and helps out when the task cuts across departments. She helps with the design of promotional materials for City events, such as her creative poster for the City's 9/11 Memorial. She has also put her energies to work on logos, emblems and patch designs for several City departments. In her role as Web Designer, she was recently recognized with the Silver Circle Award by the City-County Communications and

Marketing

Association for her work on the City's redesigned website. The website features community-related activities and events, maps, and interactive screens; and it will soon feature e-commerce, allowing citizens to conduct business with the City online.

Randy Levline, Foreman in the Street Division, has been the subject of several letters from Fairfield citizens attesting to his courteous attitude and dedication to his job on a daily basis. Whether it's undertaking curb repairs, coordinating parade services, fixing catch basins or whatever, Randy always goes the extra mile to deliver a job well done with minimum inconvenience to citizens. According to one letter, Randy was "responsive, interested, attentive, honest and followed through on his commitment." Another cites his "professionalism" and "healthy attitude." Randy rarely misses work and arrives early each day to plan the day's activities for his crew. He exemplifies what the STAR Award is intended to recognize.

Officers Mike Sulfridge and Craig Singleton were presented STAR Awards for their heroic actions of April 9. The officers were first to arrive on the scene of a house fire on Mack Road. Upon their arrival, the elderly residents told the officers that their adult son was still inside. Both officers entered the burning house and rescued the victim. Their quick response is credited with saving the man's life.

Bits and Pieces

City website wins national 3CMA honor

The City of Fairfield recently received national recognition for its technology efforts and online presence in the form of a "Silver Circle" award presented by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA).

The site, www.fairfield-city.org, won second place in the Technology services, Internet and World Wide Web category of the prestigious Savvy Awards, sponsored annually by 3CMA. Held in conjunction with the National League of Cities, the competition attracted more than 750 entries from communities across the nation.

One judge praised Fairfield's site by pointing out "an up-to-date 'What's New' section, an informative sidebar and a distinctive picture collage on its front page make this an excellent Web site for the new or experienced surfer."

If you have ideas or suggestions for

making the site more user-friendly, email webmaster@fairfield-city.org.

Fairfield Pavilion opens for senior luxury living

Motorists on Route Four watched it grow and grow during months of construction, but now the Fairfield Pavilion is open with luxury living for area Senior Citizens. While the facility just celebrated its grand opening October 13, it accepted its first resident in mid June.

Fairfield Pavilion offers 104 independent and assisted living units for area seniors. Already more than 25 percent occupied, the facility features a variety of amenities including a dining room, beauty shop, high tech library and a branch of US Bank.

For more information about Fairfield Pavilion and its amenities, contact Mary Blades, Director of Marketing, at 699-4600.

Who maintains trees in the public right-of-way?

A common question asked by homeowners relates to the maintenance of trees growing in the public right-of-way, commonly identified as the area between the sidewalk and the street. As with sidewalks, trees in public right-of-ways are the responsibility of the homeowner. Even large trees on the homeowner's side of the sidewalk can require attention if they affect the right-of-way.

Homeowners are responsible for trimming of the plantings and their removal if they fail to meet standards for planting and maintenance.

When trees are brought to the attention of the City and, upon inspection, found to present a problem, a certified letter is sent to the property owner detailing the problem and measures needing to be taken. For more information about trees in the public right-of-way, visit the City's website at www.fairfield-city.org and navigate to Public Works.



City of Fairfield
5350 Pleasant Avenue
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

www.fairfield-city.org

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Erick L. Cook

At-Large Council Members
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Jill Kinder
Mark A. Scharringhausen

1st Ward Councilmember
Michael D. Snyder

2nd Ward Councilmember
Jeffrey L. Holtegel

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Ron D'Epifanio

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